(c) All the organisations under this Ministry have a Public Relations Department to manage PR works. However, whenever, there is any special requirement, the services of outside experts are availed for specified matters connected with media and publicity.

Relaxation of export rules to attract FDI

*312. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to relax export rules for more FDI and FII remittances to bridge the trade deficit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) details of other financial reforms Government propose to bring in to achieve higher growth?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The vision of the Government for the financial sector is to have an integrated and globally competitive sector which is market-oriented, efficient, fair and transparent to facilitate steady growth. The Government's reform plans are delineated in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP).

Improvement of credit deposit ratio of Kerala

*313. PROF. P.J. KURIAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the credit-deposit ratio is lower in the State of Kerala compared to other Southern States;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to improve the credit-deposit ratio?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the main reasons for low Credit Deposit Ratio in Kerala include, low credit absorption capacity weak infrastructural facilities particularly power shortage, bad roads and inadequate transport and communication facilities, absence of proper investment climate, limited area for large scale industries, labour problems, lack of professional skills and risk aversion attitude of the people.

(c) CD Ratio is monitored in the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) and various other fora such as District Level Review Committee (DLRC) & Block Level Bankers Committee (BLBC) and measures are identified for improving CD Ratio in the state. Various steps taken by the banks recently to increase CD Ratio include:-

(i) Doubling the flow of credit to agriculture in three years

(ii) Active lending to SSI clusters in the State

(iii) Area specific schemes catering to the needs of local communities

(iv) Active lending to SME sector

Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh

*314. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh;

(b) if so, the amount of education cess accumulated in the above Kosh in 2004-05;

(c) the amount that is going to be generated and accumulated in Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh during the current fiscal;

(d) whether his Ministry is keen that the Kosh be kept in public account which would enable it to withdraw money as and when required for various programmes; and

(e) the reasons as to why the Ministry wanted that the funds be set up on Proforma basis?